

STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION PROPERTY TAXES DEPARTMENT

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JAMES E. SPEED

October 12, 2001

TO INTERESTED PARTIES:

REVISION OF ASSESSORS' HANDBOOK SECTION 576 ASSESSMENT OF VESSELS

Letter To Assessors 2001/003 announced a Board project to develop Assessors' Handbook Section 576, *Assessment of Vessels*. A subsequent letter, dated June 28, 2001, transmitted staff's draft of the proposed handbook section to interested parties. Interested parties were asked to provide changes, in the form of alternative text, to the draft handbook section.

Enclosed is a matrix compiled from suggestions and comments received from interested parties. The matrix contains all proposed changes, originating from both interested parties and staff, together with staff's position in regard to each proposed change. This information is provided to you in advance of the interested parties meeting since these suggestions will form the primary discussion topics at the meeting.

On October 26, 2001, staff will hold a meeting with interested parties to discuss proposed changes identified on the matrix and any language developed by staff. The purpose of the meeting is to reach agreement on handbook language. The meeting is scheduled to start at 9:30 a.m. in Room 118, Board of Equalization, 450 N Street, Sacramento. After the interested parties meeting, the project will proceed as follows:

- Staff will submit an issue paper and other required material for the Property Tax Committee (PTC) meeting. The material will be due 14 days prior to the PTC meeting date.
- The Board's Property Tax Committee will hear discussion of any unresolved issues at a meeting in early 2002.

More specific dates will be available upon approval of the 2002 Property Tax Committee Work Plan.

All documents relating to this project are available on the Board's Web site (www.boe.ca.gov) and can be accessed by way of the following links: (1) Property Taxes, (2) Property Tax Committee Work Plans, (3) Other Projects in Process 2001.

If you plan to attend the interested parties meeting, please advise Mr. Gordon Ferguson at (916) 322-3815; gordon.ferguson@boe.ca.gov. Thank you for your continued interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Johnson Deputy Director Property Taxes Department

RCJ:mw Enclosure

ASSESSORS' HANDBOOK SECTION 576, ASSESSMENT OF VESSELS

Comments on June 28, 2001 Draft

No.	PAGE / LINE REFERENCE		Source	PROPOSED LANGUAGE	STAFF POSITION/COMMENTS
1.	All		SBE Staff		Nonsubstantive changes to correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling are not shown in the matrix.
2.	i Foreword		Los Angeles County Assessor	Comment: Would like a portion of the foreword to define the legal authority for vessel taxation by the local county assessor. In addition, include a statement that the DMV is responsible for collection of registration fees only.	Accepted. SBE added sentence to the beginning of line 10 to provide additional details. SBE Addition: Although the Department of Motor Vehicles or the Coast Guard is responsible for collecting registration fees on vessels, vessels are subject to personal property taxation and assessors are responsible for the annual assessment of vessels. The objective of this handbook
3.	1	18	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: It is useful to be aware of the DMV's definition as assessors exchange information with the DMV regarding new vessels newly entering the county,	Revised to improve clarity.
4.	2	9	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: Some vessels may be <u>fully or partially</u> exempt from property taxation due to the nature of their use or value, or <u>including</u> those <u>included in classified as</u> business inventory.	Revised to improve clarity.
5.	2	14	SBE Staff	Add sentence: (The assessor actually prepares two separate rolls each year: the regular assessment roll and the supplemental assessment roll.) Vessels are not subject to supplemental assessment; they are enrolled only on the regular assessment roll.) The assessment roll"	Revised to provide more detail.
6.	2	17	SBE Staff	Revise language: Most Many county assessors prefer to group vessel assessments in a separate section of the unsecured roll	Revised.

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No.		PAGE / LINE REFERENCE		PROPOSED LANGUAGE	STAFF POSITION/COMMENTS
7.	2	19	Los Angeles County Assessor	Revise language: Documented vessels meeting the requirements of section 227should may be enrolled in a separate section at the end of the vessel section of the roll.	Accepted.
8.	2	21	SBE Staff	Delete sentence: Entering all vessels on the unsecured tax roll provides for administrative ease. Because vessels sell often, current ownership information is frequently dependent on reporting by the public. Using unsecured billing allows time to bill the proper assessee. Other aAdvantages of enrolling vessel on the unsecured tax roll	Deleted, as statements are no longer valid.
9.	3	17	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: Like any other personal property, The Legislature has the power to exempt personal property from taxation or to allow differential taxation of personal property; thus a vessel can be exempt from property taxation by reason of its ownership, use, and/or type.	Revised to improve clarity and incorporated part of sentence from item No. 10 below.
10.	3	23	SBE Staff	Delete sentence: In contrast to real property, the Legislature has the power to exempt personal property from taxation or to allow differential taxation of personal property.	Deleted, as part of the sentence is incorporated into the revision of item No. 9 above.
11.	3	32	SBE Staff	Delete sentence: Except as otherwise specifically provided, all tax liens attach annually as of 12:01 a.m. on the first day of January (lien date) preceding the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Footnote Section 2192.	Deleted, as the sentence is misleading with regards to unsecured assessments.
12.	4	6	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: Assessees may need to be reminded that <u>although</u> an <u>the</u> assessment is based on a vessel's value on the preceding lien date, <u>although a the</u> tax bill is not received until July of that same year. received is for the ensuing fiscal year.	Revised to improve clarity.
13.	4	Exampl e2 nd para. 2 nd sent.	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: The assessee (Although owner A) does not own the boat during the fiscal year the bill covers, but the bill is valid based on ownership on the lien date,	Revised to improve clarity.
14.	4	14	SBE Staff	Delete language: The county tax collector is responsible for the preparation of the tax bill and the collection of taxes.	Deleted, as the sentence is not technically correct and is unnecessary.

No.	PAGE / REFER		Source	PROPOSED LANGUAGE	STAFF POSITION/COMMENTS
15.	4	20	SBE Staff	Revise language: Section 611 requires the assessor to assess a vessel property to unknown owners if the owner of the property is not known.	Revised to make consistent with statute.
16.	5	1-9	SBE Staff	Delete language: In the case of a sales contract between two individuals where no official title transfer has been made through the DMV, Coast Guard documentation or an amended agreement with the lien holder, the assessment may be enrolled concurrently to both parties. When both parties are assessed, tax bills are required to be sent to both parties. This requirement presents a situation in which dual tax bills may result in dual payments. The assessor cannot indicate primary and secondary liabilities; property tax statutes do not recognize such differences. Should both persons pay the tax, the tax collector must accept the first payment and return the second. The assessor, therefore, should confine the joint assessment procedure to those cases in which a collection problem is anticipated.	Deleted, as there is no specific authority for this practice.
17.	5	12	SBE Staff	Delete sentence: Generally, a vessel belonging to a corporation may not be assessed to an individual.	Deleted, as the statement has too many exceptions to be included as text.
18.	5	17	Los Angeles County Assessor	Revise sentence: The Vessel Owner's Report or the Vessel Property Statement, one <u>or both</u> of which a vessel owner is <u>may be</u> required to submit	Accepted.
19.	5	21	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: All vessels currently on the roll shall should remain so until a taxpayer or other party provides proof written notice to the assessor that the vessel has established another situs.	Revised to improve clarity.
20.	5	22	SBE Staff	Revise language: The burden of proof notification falls upon the taxpayer and, unless otherwise given notice, the assessor shall should enroll a vessel at its last known situs.	Revised for minor correction.
21.	5	25	SBE Staff	Revise language: If a tax bill from another county is offered as proof evidence of situs change, the assessor should request	Revised for minor correction.
22.	6	9	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: The vessel statement or owner's report requests a variety of information on the vessel such as the type, size, <u>vessel number</u> , <u>builder</u> , <u>model</u> , <u>length</u> , engine <u>type</u> , year built, equipment, cost, etc.	Revised to provide further details.

No.	PAGE / REFER		Source	PROPOSED LANGUAGE	STAFF POSITION/COMMENTS
23.	7	12	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: See Chapter 4 for information regarding the DMV and Coast Guard registration and documentation of vessels. Footnote	Revised to improve clarity and provide additional details.
				As discussed in Chapter 4, some vessels do not require either registration or documentation.	
24.	7	14	SBE Staff	Add language: provide such information as the owner's name, address, vessel type, <u>cost</u> class, and other pertinent information.	Added to improve clarity.
25.	7	19	SBE Staff	Delete sentence. See Chapter 4 for further information regarding vessels registered by the DMV.	Deleted, as unnecessary. Sentence repeats page 7, lines 12-13.
26.	8	15	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: and, upon the form's return of the form, the owner should have established the exact location of the vessel.	Revised to improve sentence structure.
27.	8	End of 20	SBE Staff	Add sentence: It is also useful to review the harbormaster's report when conducting a field canvas.	Added to provide further details.
28.	8	22	SBE Staff	Add sentence: The vessel property statement provides detailed information regarding a vessel to aid in a more accurate assessment. Furthermore, Oowners may install additional equipment	Added to provide further details.

No.		PAGE / LINE REFERENCE SOURCE		PROPOSED LANGUAGE	STAFF POSITION/COMMENTS
29.	8	31	SBE Staff	Revise section: Property Statements are declarations of assessable property signed by the assessee under penalty of perjury. Assessors use these property statements to gather information and ultimately determine the assessable value of property. The assessor should furnish the property statement to every person required by law to file and to those other persons requested to file. Failure of the assessor to request or secure the property statement, however, does not render any assessment invalid. Footnote 1 The Board-prescribed Vessel Property Statement is Form BOE-576-D. Each person owning a vessel having an aggregate cost of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or more for any assessment year is required to file a signed property statement with the assessor. Other owners are required to file only upon request of the assessor. Owners must report the Aaggregate cost to be reported shall of the vessel, includeing all affixed boat equipment and accessories, as well as sales tax. When boat dealers report a new vessel's purchase price to the DMV, whereby the sales price that is the basis of value, includes sales tax and freight charges, if applicable, are included in the reported price. Property Statements are declarations of assessable property signed by the assessee under penalty of perjury. Assessors use these property statements to gather information and ultimately determine the assessable value of property. The assessor furnishes the property statement to every person required by law to file and to those other persons requested to file. Failure of the assessor to request or secure the property statement, however, does not render any assessment invalid. Footnote 3 The Board prescribed Vessel Property Statement is Footnote 1 Section 441, subdivision (a).	Revised to improve flow of section.

No.	PAGE / REFER		Source	PROPOSED LANGUAGE	STAFF POSITION/COMMENTS
30.	9	14	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: Therefore, use by the assessors of the Board-prescribed recommends that assessors use the Board-prescribed Vessel Property Statement, Form BOE-576-D, is recommended. for all vessels, regardless of their cost.	Revised to improve clarity.
31.	9	20	Los Angeles County Assessor	Revise language: Pursuant to section 463 441, the statement shall be declared to be true under penalty of perjury.	Accepted. Typographical error.
32.	9	26	Santa Cruz	Revise sentence: A person owning a vessel that does not require the	Not accepted.
			County Assessor	filing of a property statement shall, upon request of the assessor, file a signed property statement (BOE-576-D), if required by the assessor.	Language used in draft is consistent with Revenue and Taxation Code section 441.
33.	9	29	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: The Board has several other recommended forms that can be useful in obtaining information on vessels.	Minor revision.
34.	9	30	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: Although the Board recommends suggests the use of these alternative forms, they are not Board-prescribed and accordingly the penalty assessment for failure to file cannot be applied.	Revised to correct statement.
35.	9	34	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: Hence Assessors may utilize a Vessel Owner's Report, Form BOE-576-B1, or postcard size Form BOE-576-BAH, will be used to request for the description of a vessel. An assessor may also rely upon Form BOE-576-A, which should be sent annually to each vessel owner of record.	Revised to improve clarity.
36.	10	After 11	SBE Staff	Add a bulleted sentence: BOE-576-C, <i>List of Vessels</i> , is submitted by harbormasters and identifies vessels located in a boating facility. This form, however, does not provide any other description of a vessel.	Addition to provide additional details.
37.	12	2	Del Norte	Revise language: and since no not one of these methods alone can be used to	Not accepted.
			County Assessor	be used to	Language used in draft taken verbatim from court case.

No.	PAGE REFEI	/ LINE RENCE	SOURCE	PROPOSED LANGUAGE	STAFF POSITION/COMMENTS
38.	12	10	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: Replacement cost <u>new</u> , in the case of a new or nearly new vessel, <u>usually establishes a maximum value</u> and, when considered along with normal depreciation, will be a strong indicator of market value in the case of vessels that continue to be manufactured.	Revised to improve clarity.
39.	14	Exampl e Last sentence	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: The appraiser in this case estimated the value at \$7,000 \$7,500, which includes sales tax.	Revised to properly reflect the addition of sales tax.
40.	14	6	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: As of March 2001, there were approximately 913,000 vessels registered in California through the Department of Motor Vehicles, and there were approximately 98,435 transfers of used vessels and 37,950 new vessel registrations in the year 2000. In 2000, approximately 98,000 used vessels were transferred and 38,000 new vessels were registered.	Revised to improve sentence structure.
41.	15	12	SBE Staff	Add footnote:(N.A.D.A.). Footnote Footnote In addition to these price guides, the Kelley Blue Book Motorcycle Guide, or its interactive web site at www.kbb.com, can also be used for pricing personal watercraft.	Added to provide further information.
42.	16	17	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: Vessels <u>used</u> exclusively used in salt water, that	Revised to improve clarity.
43.	16	26	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: reflects those vessels in excellent condition with an engine in good-running, engine condition.	Revised to improve clarity.
44.	17	3	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: A better method is for the assessor to annually appraise all vessels at market value using a valuation guide or by deriving depreciation rates trend factors from the market by using the value guides.	Revised for correction.
45.	17	After 10	SBE Staff	Add paragraph: Application of trend factors for determining vessel values may not represent market value in specific instances. As such, the appraiser may need to review some vessels on a case by case basis and adjust the values where appropriate.	Added to provide further discussion on using trend factors.
46.	17	14	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: Since these are only <u>listings of</u> vessels available for sale, they will	Revised for minor correction.

No.		PAGE / LINE REFERENCE						PROPOSED LANGUAGE	STAFF POSITION/COMMENTS
47.	19	22 – 27	Santa Cruz County Assessor	Comment: The two sentences beginning with "Owners claiming a permanent situs" don't make sense and it seems to conflict with the language on page 35, lines 7 through 11.	Accepted. The sentences are confusing. SBE proposed deletion: Owners claiming a permanent situs in another state or county, who are not members of the Armed forces, stationed in that state or county by way of military orders, must register the vessel in the state or county of use. Otherwise, aAssessments				
48.	23	21	SBE Staff	Add language:lessor or lessee should apply	Revised for minor correction.				
49.	28	11	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: For California property tax purposes, a nondocumented vessel is one that is not neither documented by the Coast Guard nor does it require registration registered or licensing licensed by the DMV.	Revised to improve flow of sentence.				
50.	29	9	Del Norte County Assessor	Add language: On the lien date, vessels with a <u>permanent</u> taxable situs located in California	Not accepted A vessel is only considered to have a taxable situs in California when it is permanently located here. As such, use of the term "permanent" is unnecessary when describing the taxable situs of a vessel.				
51.	30	13	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: However, unlike <u>some</u> other types of personal property, vessels (<u>other than intercounty ferries</u>) are not subject to apportionment.	Revised to improve clarity.				
52.	31	16	SBE Staff	Revise language : It is an owner's burden to provide written proof documentation to an assessor that situs has been established elsewhere,	Revised for minor correction.				
53.	31	17	SBE Staff	Revise language: Such proof documentation would include a tax bill	Revised for minor correction.				
54.	31	19	SBE Staff	Revise language:is offered as proof evidence, an assessor	Revised for minor correction.				
55.	31	21	SBE Staff	Revise language: may also provide proof evidence of a vessel's	Revised for minor correction.				

No.	PAGE / LINE REFERENCE						STAFF POSITION/COMMENTS
56.	31	30	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: Although the owners intend for the vessel to be operated as a seagoing vessel in the future, or to be located elsewhere, such a vessel would be considered to be permanently located here.	Revised to improve clarity.		
57.	32	3	SBE Staff	Add language:location of boat, boat type, cost class, and other	Added to improve clarity.		
58.	32	28	SBE Staff	Revise language: This DMV report provides proof evidence to the assessor	Revised minor correction.		
59.	37	Exampl e last bullet	SBE Staff	Add language to next to the last line:property statement or other documentation notifying the assessor pursuant to section 1139.	Revised to improve clarity.		
60.	38	25	Santa Cruz County Assessor	Question. "This exemption can only be applied to one vessel owned, claimed, possessed, or controlled by an assessee on the lien date." Does this mean that if someone owns more than one low value vessel, only one is exempt and the others would be assessed?	Correct as stated. See section 228, subdivision (a), last sentence (see also on pages 68-69 of this handbook section).		
61.	39	21	SBE Staff	Delete language: This statute specifically exempts a particular historical vessel, the Madaket, a former ferry, which is owned by the Humboldt Bay Maritime Museum, located in Eureka, California.	Deleted, as the statement implies that no other vessel could qualify.		
62.	40	25	SBE Staff	Delete language: normally available for lease may continue to qualify for the business	Revised for correction.		
63.	43	26	SBE Staff	Add language: The vessel, however, must be used as a full-time commercial sea-fishing vessel to qualify for the documented vessel exemption.	Added to improve clarity.		
64.	47	2	SBE Staff	Revise language:large holes holds in which cargo	Revised for minor correction.		
65.	48	8	SBE Staff	Revise language:the hole holds of the ship and to	Revised for minor correction.		
66.	52	21	Kern County Assessor	Replace language: These vessels are usually between 7.5 and 11.5 13 feet in length and	Accepted.		
67.	52	24	Kern County Assessor	Add language:inside of a vessel. These vessels are frequently referred to as Jet-Skis.	Accepted.		

No.	PAGE / REFER		Source	PROPOSED LANGUAGE	STAFF POSITION/COMMENTS
68.	53	23	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: 1. A sailboat is a boat propelled <u>primarily or exclusively</u> by a sail or sails. <u>Sailboats are often equipped with motors for emergency purposes and to assist with docking.</u> Sailing-type vessels,sharpie, sloop, <u>catamaran</u> , trimaran, or yawl.	Revised to provide additional details.
69.	55	4	Kern County Assessor	Replace language: These vessels are usually between 11.0 and 15.5 18 feet in length	Accepted.
70.	55	17	SBE Staff	Revise sentence: 1. A yacht is any one of various types of relatively small vessels, characterized with sharp prow and graceful lines, and ordinarily used for pleasure or racing.	Revised.
71.	80	29	SBE Staff	Add Internet site: www.kbb.com This Kelley Blue Book interactive web site is a good source for pricing personal watercraft, such as jet skis. Personal watercrafts are found in the motorcycle category of this web site, which provides both a trade-in value and a retail value.	Added to provide further information.